

Summary of Assessor Relevant Acts of the 84th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas

Following are a listing and summary of each relevant Act of 2003. In general, no substantial changes in the day to day functions of assessors' offices were enacted for the first time since the 1993 meeting of the General Assembly.

Act 202 - Regarding the Secretary of the Equalization Board. Allows the county clerk to designate someone else to serve as the equalization board secretary. Current law provides that only the county clerk may serve in that capacity.

Act 295 - Clarifies duties of the county clerk in preparation of the tax books and repeals obsolete laws regarding property tax collection. It does just as the title says and makes the tax collection code consistent among various changes that have occurred in previous legislative sessions.

Act 646 - Clarifies the definition of disabled person for implementing Amendment 79. Extends the definition of disabled to include anyone that has received benefits to permanent and total disability beyond those provided by social security.

Act 864 - Clarifies the definition of home owner for Amendment 79 purposes. Allows claimants who reside in tax delinquent homestead to receive the tax credit.

Act 1279 - Allows the surface owner of property to purchase tax delinquent severed mineral rights. As the title says, surface owners may purchase tax delinquent mineral rights under their lands.

Act 1289 - Requires in-lieu of property tax payments for properties constructed using the proceeds from Act 9 Revenue Bonds. Property constructed using the proceeds from Act 9 Bonds are required to pay at least 35% of the property taxes they would have paid if it was on the tax rolls. The projected installed cost of real and personal property shall be the beginning determinant of the in-lieu of payment. The payment shall be adjusted once the actual installed cost is determined.

Act 1354 - Clarifies the procedure for collecting penalties for illegal claims of the Homestead Property Tax Credit and increases the amount of penalty. Increases the penalty for illegally claiming a homestead credit from 10% of the amount claimed to 100%. If the illegal claim is in a county where a legal claim is made, the property owner may choose to not make the legal claim for two years or to repay the illegal claim and the penalty. If the illegal claim is not in a county where a property owner has a legal claim, he or she must repay the illegal claim and the penalty. The property owner may appeal a determination that a claim is illegal to the county court.